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POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE LONDON PEACE CONGRESS.

The Universal Peace Congress in London, July 14-19, was the second in an annual series commenced in connection with the Paris Exposition of 1889. The points of distinction in the London Congress as compared with that at Paris were:

1. A much larger attendance of delegates from Peace Societies, Union Church meetings and Voluntary Associations.

2. A full and able representation from Germany and a consequent commingling of the French and German advocates of peace in formal discussions and in social amenities.

3. A fuller recognition of the United States of America in its position as leader of the Peace movement. The President, Hon. David Dudley Field, several Vice-Presidents and members of the Committee of procedure, were Americans. Ten formal "papers" and several speeches on topics mooted, as well as sermons and addresses, were by citizens of "the great Republic."

4. The harmonious association of many persons of differing religious and political views. While the great body of American and English delegates were avowedly Christian, there were those from both countries and many from the Continent who are members of no church. But the hall was festooned with Scripture mottoes, half-hour morning prayer-meetings were held, five minutes before each day's session were given to silent devotion and the entire body welcomed a lady's simple and spontaneous prayer offered in the midst of the proceedings of the busiest day. Four sermons were preached under the sanction of the Congress by Canon H. Scott Holland at St. Paul's Cathedral; Rev. Reuben Thomas, D. D., at City Temple; Rev. J. M. Gibbon, D. D., at Stamford Hill Congregational Church and Rev. R. B. Howard at the New Tabernacle, Shoreditch, London.

5. The predominance of the English language—though every important paper, address or resolution appeared in French and every question was put to vote in that language.

6. The full reports and generally favorable editorials of the British press. These were translated to some extent and appeared in one hundred newspapers in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Holland and Sweden. The American press published only meagre reports.

7. The Inter-Parliamentary Conference. This originated in the visit to the United States in 1887 of a delegation of the British Parliament presenting a petition to the President to propose a treaty of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain. That petition was signed by 233 members of the House of Commons. These men have since that time been recognized as the parliamentary friends of peace and arbitration. In general

they may be counted upon to vote for any reasonable measure to advance the movement. They readily joined with others in the effort which resulted in the organization of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference at Paris in 1889, and its successor at London in 1890. This meeting is entirely distinct from the Congress but contains some of the same persons, especially from "the Continent." They meet not so much to discuss and settle principles as to devise measures. They are men each of whom represents a constituency. They have been chosen to act for many thousands of their fellow countrymen upon various matters of public interest. They have voluntarily banded together to promote international arbitration. They are cautious as politicians always are. Some of them earnestly disclaim any connection with Peace Societies. But they are devoted to the same object. Had there been no Peace Societies their own organization would never have existed. Part of its strength is of course in its novelty.

There was double the attendance at Hotel Metropole, London, that there was at Paris. German and French members shared in the discussions and the banquet provided by the English members. The fact that the United States Congress was in session prevented attendance on the part of Americans. But Representative Hitt and Senator Sherman, Chairmen of the Committees on Foreign Relations, each wrote a sympathetic letter.

8. Both Congress and Conference voted to meet at Rome, by invitation of Italian friends, in 1891.

THE CONGRESS OF 1892-3.

9. An invitation was extended to the Congress to meet in America in 1892-3. There was no formal acceptance of this invitation expected, nor is the feeling universal that such a meeting is practicable. In its favor it is said:

(1) The United States and the western continent have made great advances towards universal arbitration by the Pan-American Conference of 1889-'90.

(2) Our geographical position makes war with any European power improbable, and discussions of the general question of peace will be less embarrassed by local questions and historical prejudices than on the eastern continent.

(3) The Columbian Exhibition celebrates in the name of a hero of peace the peaceful progress of the American continent for 400 years. It is also an occasion of international comity.

(4) The nature of our political institutions and our own history admit and invite the utmost freedom of debate on this subject as on every other.

(5) The position, greatness and general character of the American Commonwealth points it out as an elect leader in this as well as in other great political and social reforms. If our country occupies advanced ground as to individual liberty, universal education, religious freedom

and popular rights, why should it not take its place also as leader in a reform related to these and all other questions of human progress? A World's Peace Congress would help it to do so.

On the other hand it is alleged:

1. A country so remote and especially a city one thousand miles inland, like Chicago, is not well situated for a Congress which must draw most of its members from Europe, three thousand miles away. The time would be too long, the expense too great.

2. No immediate danger of war; no great armaments; no belligerent sovereigns; and no people pauperized by war-taxes, oppressed by conscription or dominated by militarism, need the presence and influence of such a Congress on this side the Atlantic.

It is replied:

1. That the journey and especially the introduction to our people and institutions would both interest and, in some ways, benefit our European friends.

2. That Washington, and not Chicago, may be the place of meeting, especially if Congress carries out President Harrison's suggestion for an International Hall, and the Government assumes the small expense of the meeting.

3. Our Congressmen will be likely to invite the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, attend the meeting and entertain them as others have done or will do at Paris, London and Rome, and thus many European friends of peace can attend both meetings.

4. (a) While no war threatens the United States the sword is seldom sheathed in the American Republics farther south. (b) Our people need not only to enjoy the blessings of peace but to be trained in the principles and acquire the character of opponents of war, so as to be prepared when temptations arise in the future as they have in the past not to hastily and angrily appeal to the sword. Americans are at heart as belligerent as Europeans. They must learn forbearance towards foreigners and distrust of their own leaders who would provoke war.

5. Immigrants as well as natives need the influence of such a Congress in order that they may see and hear on our shores their high-minded, unselfish and benevolent countrymen from other lands. We have been visited too exclusively by the aristocratic, the military, and the mercenary. We need all the influences of conciliation and kindly regard.

6. That among the many Congresses, educational, scientific, social and religious, held in connection with our exhibition as in Paris, none would be of higher purpose or fill a nobler place than that of the devotees of peace.

It seems logically, rhetorically and historically the right thing that America should be fourth in a series which comprises France, England and Italy—Paris, London, Rome and Chicago!

Columbus was a hero of Peace. The exhibition marks the national progress which two centuries and a half of peace have made possible. For the first time, then, if the people desire it and the Government will encourage it, there will be a Universal Peace Congress on the western continent.

MEMORIAL TO THE PRESIDENT.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 15, 1890.

HON. BENJAMIN HARRISON, President of the United States:

At a meeting of the American Peace Society, held this day in Pilgrim Hall, Boston, the following memorial was unanimously adopted:

The American Peace Society, having learned by the published official correspondence and the Queen's speech at the prorogation of the British Parliament, that the government of Great Britain is disposed to submit certain questions as to the rights of the United States and Great Britain in the seal fisheries of Behring Sea to "impartial arbitration," hereby pray you to accept arbitration, especially if all the questions of national rights ceded to the United States by Russia or dependent on international law, can be thus adjudicated.

EDWARD S. TOBEY, President.

ROWLAND B. HOWARD, Secretary.

THE BEHRING SEA.

We are encouraged to learn from a reliable source that the Memorial of the American Peace Society to the President of the United States, asking him to meet the Government of Great Britain as it proposed in arbitration, was not without effect. The following dispatch comes to us through a reliable source, "Webb" in *Boston Journal*.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29. There can be no doubt that the negotiations between the British minister and the United States relative to the Behring Sea are soon to be renewed. The British Minister has made clear the basis upon which he intends to proceed. The proposition to settle the Behring Sea controversy by arbitration has come from Great Britain. Before that agreement shall be made between the two governments Secretary Blaine, it is understood, will insist upon knowing the basis upon which the arbitration is to proceed. And he will desire to know whether the British Government intends to bring into question the matter of the closed sea. If that shall be insisted upon by Great Britain, the negotiations may fail. Secretary Blaine has never insisted in his negotiations with the British Minister that the Behring Sea is a closed sea; he has simply maintained that rights in that sea which were for half a century exercised by Russia and recognized by Great Britain shall also be recognized by Great Britain when exercised by the United States as the legal successors to the rights of Russia in that sea.

"O, that some sweet bird of the South
Would build its nest in each cannon's mouth,
Till the only sound from its rusty throat
Should be a wren's or a bluebird's note!"